

species is given, expressed his doubts about the identity of Bonaparte's and Wallace's birds. Having found again the characters indicated by Wallace in one of Von Rosenberg's specimens, I suggested in a previous paper (Abh. Ver. Brem. v. p. 69) that there might be a *lapsus calami* in Bonaparte's statement.

Such being the state of affairs, until a short time ago, there could not be much objection to naming the Celebean bird "*A. monachus*." Bonaparte's diagnosis is, indeed, short enough; and recently one of his appellations, although in general use, has been rejected on account of its being accompanied by a diagnostic phrase consisting of only *four* words. However, I cannot agree in fixing a certain number of words as indispensable for the establishment of a species. This would lead to a most trivial higgling; for it is extremely difficult to tell how many words should be considered sufficient. In some cases, I think, even a single word might do; besides it can never be demanded that the first description of a species should be exhaustive in every respect. But Bonaparte's diagnosis is erroneous; and, as lately the *Oriolus indicus* has been renamed because of a wrong original description, it might have been regarded as necessary to find a new name for our bird. But this objection is, in my belief, not sustainable, as the species could be ascribed to Wallace, as well as the *Oriolus indicus* to Jerdon.

However, it has become unavoidable to rename the Celebes bird; for now a species is known answering fully to Bonaparte's diagnosis, viz. *A. insignis*; and therefore I venture to propose the name of *A. spectabilis* for the former. It now little matters whether Bonaparte's term "*nigris*" is miswritten or not, and whether the type in the Leyden Museum is really *A. insignis* (and in this case the *habitat* would be wrong) or *A. spectabilis* (and then the description would be wrong); on the contrary, I consider it best, under such circumstances, to drop "*A. monachus*" altogether, and to use the new names for the two species respectively.

XXXIX.—*Description of an apparently new Species of Pigeon of the Genus Ptilopus.* By D. G. ELLIOT, F.R.S.E. &c.

Ptilopus pictiventris.

Adult. Front and crown rosy purple, with a faintly indicated yellow margin. Occiput greenish grey. Throat whitish; neck, upper part of mantle, and breast ashy green.

Flanks light green. Centre of abdomen rufous, bounded above by a deep purple line. Crissum and under tail-coverts bright yellow, the latter orange towards their tips. Back and upper tail-coverts bright green. Scapulars tipped with lilac. Tail bright green, with a broad apical yellow band. Bill greenish, with a yellow tip. Feet probably dark red. Total length $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches, wing $5\frac{1}{4}$, tail 3, culmen $\frac{9}{16}$ inch.

Hab. Nukahiva (type), Marquesas Islands, Samoa (*Whitmee*); Savage Island, Navigators' and Friendly Islands (*Layard*).

This is, I presume, the bird called *P. apicalis* by Layard in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society' for 1876, p. 495. It differs from the *P. apicalis*, Bon., a very distinct species, by being of a much lighter colour on the neck and breast, and by having the rufous of the abdomen bounded above by *deep purple*, and the scapulars tipped with lilac. In the type of *P. apicalis* there is no purple on the abdomen, the patch being rufous mixed with yellow, and the scapulars are uniform green. The locality Vavao, given by Bonaparte, is questionable, as the type was brought by Hombron and Jacquinot from the Samoan Islands; but which one is not stated. The type of the *Ptilopus pictiventris* is now in the collection of the Paris Museum, and came from *Nukahiva*, of the Marquesas group. I have also seen two specimens in the British Museum, sent by the Rev. S. J. Whitmee from Samoa and Savage Island, which are precisely like the type, and bore upon their label (written by Mr. Whitmee) the name of *Ptilopus fasciatus*, Peale, which is a very different species, in no way to be confounded with it. As there is considerable confusion still existing among these small fruit-pigeons of the South-Sea Islands, I will add that the present new species differs from the others with a yellow apical band on the tail especially by the colouring of the abdomen. Its proper position in the group will be fully shown in a paper upon these birds, on which I have been for some time engaged, and have now nearly ready for publication.

MISCELLANEOUS.

On Dinichthys, Newberry.

PROF. OWEN, followed in this by Prof. Huxley, constituted an order, Protopteri (Dipnoi, Huxley), for the genus *Lepidosiren*, which combines with essentially ichthyic characters structural peculiarities which greatly approximate it to the perennibranchiate Batrachians. Paul Gervais and others, on the contrary, class the